

*Georgina Hughes*

10/82

**THE  
POTTERS  
GUILD  
OF  
BRITISH  
COLUMBIA**

# EDITOR

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At the September meeting our new Executive was installed. Thankyou Georgina for doing such a thorough and excellent job of nominating those people.

A request from our typists and myself: Please double space between the lines in all copy submitted for the newsletter; this greatly assists editing. We much prefer typed copy- (even badly typed!) but CLEARLY handwritten copy is quite acceptable if all names and technical terms are PRINTED. Our typists are not always potters or familiar with the names and terms used. Much time is spent on this newsletter each month including some 25-30 hours by myself; 5-8 hours by our typists; 3-4 hours layout and paste-up by Linda and 12-14 hours by the mailing committee. A little extra care by contributors is much appreciated and gives us more time to pot! - Thankyou.

Angela

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ADVERTISING RATES: For one month: quarter-page \$11.00, half-page \$21.00, full-page \$41.00. 10% discount for 6 month order, 15% discount for one year order. Payment must be made in advance. Prices are for camera-ready artwork.

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All submissions to be in writing to Angela Squires, 701 - 1825 Haro  
Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6G 1H4

Mailing: Miriam McCarrell, Sylvia Gornall, Elizabeth Reynolds.  
Contributors: Ronda Green, Georgina Hughes, Catherine Racine,  
Elizabeth Reynolds, and Ron White.

Typing: Candice Field

Layout and paste - up: Linda Doherty

## MEETING

This months meeting will be held at 7 pm Wednesday, October 20th, at the Van Dusen Gardens, 37th and Oak St., Vancouver. Refreshments will be served and after the business meeting there will be a presentation by Andrew Wong. Four of Andrew's pieces were exhibited in Ceramics '82 and Andrew took 1st prize for domestic ware as well as 3rd prize for decorative ware. It is interesting to note that both pieces were wood fired.

After obtaining a degree in Fine Arts at U.B.C., Andrew commenced work as a potter. In 1974 he moved to Ruskin, B.C. and established his home and studio. Some 18 months ago Andrew became interested in wood firing and undertook to build a wood fired kiln. Well documented with slides Andrew will take us through the process of building and firing. Following the slides he will of course be happy to answer questions.

We will have some of Andrews recent work on display.

## LIBRARY

With both the library and the membership of the Potters Guild growing, it has become necessary to recatalogue our collection, and institute a more formal circulation procedure. At present, 65 books circulating are overdue. Not counting periodicals, this is over one half of our collection. All of these overdue books and periodicals have yet to be recatalogued. And for all members to have a fair chance at using their library, books must be brought back when due. Therefore, PLEASE BRING BACK YOUR OVERDUE BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

# SERENDIPITY

GONE MISSING -- one cheerful, handsome Japanese fellow - responds mostly to the name of Hiro - last seen scurrying up the North Shore mountain, presumably in the direction of his long neglected studio.

Yes, this is true, but quite understandable. After giving nearly three years of his generous talent, time and energy to the Guild, Hiro has handed over the official Presidential seal to me. His will be a hard act to follow.

The first Guild meeting I attended seven years ago while still an art school student is only memorable for it's lack of memories. Twelve people came, stared at one another and left. The last Guild meeting I attended, two weeks ago, was very different. Seventy-five potters crowded into the space at Van Dusen and it was noisy with talk and laughter. Most of this ruckus had to do with what we all are doing; making pots, learning to make better pots and finding a supportive ear in this challenging quest.

I accepted this position, (while expecting a first baby), knowing that it would be far easier than some preceding presidents who did not have the unfailing efforts of a crack team executive body, like the one assembled now.

I have been told that the twenty-seven year history of the Guild reads like a wave. We have been riding high lately with many successful traditional events, growing enthusiasm of the membership and keen interest in new endeavours. I hope this high will continue for many more years and thank all of you for your confidence that I will be part of it.

Ronda Green

Our President Hiro's retired,  
By his lead was the Guild inspired;  
For the meetings he led  
And Executive fed,  
Remembered he is and admired !

# HYCROFT SALE

Since the September Newsletter was published there have been a few changes. One is that non-Guild members will pay a 40% commission on their sales, whereas members continue to pay 25%. Entrance fee will be \$10. for those willing to do a minimum of 2 hours work for the sale, and \$25. for non-workers.

Enclosed with the October newsletter are two forms. One is an entry form. The other is a form to be returned by those willing to volunteer some time to help with the sale. Without willing helpers the Hycroft committee would find it impossible to put on a sale of this size. So come on everyone, save \$15. on your entrance fee, and give the committee a hand. Even if you do not plan to have pots for sale at Hycroft, your help would be valuable.

The public has come to look forward to this annual opportunity to buy good quality pottery for Christmas gifts at reasonable prices. Every year we try to achieve a high standard, and this year we have the successful Gallery Shop as an example and inspiration. In order to come close to that quality of work the Executive has established basic standards for accepting work for the Sale. So please jury your own work and do not bring any pots you are not proud of. The Committee reserves the right not to display work below the acceptable standard. Only work hand-crafted by the individual potter will be displayed for sale.

Mail your entrance forms and fee by Nov. 12 to:

May Kingsley, 1418 Bramwell Road, West Vancouver, B.C. V7S 2N9

and send the work form by Nov. 8th to:

Elizabeth Reynolds, 4452 Regency Place, West Vancouver, B.C. V7W 1B9

1982-83 GUILD EXECUTIVE

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Vice President-	Anne Fleetham	922-6620
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Committee Chairmen

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Social-	Paula Locke	228-8784
Program and Workshops-	Hannah Diamond	936-0512
	Catherine McLean	271-0255
Mailing-	Miriam McCarrell	988-2379
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Awards/Nominations-	Georgina Hughes	987-5340
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# CONVERSATIONS

Bob Kingsmill calls himself a lucky man and by all indications he is. Relaxed, good natured and at peace with himself and his work, his life as a potter seems ideal.

Bob works in a smallish studio on Granville Island. He puts in forty to fifty hours a week producing everything from teacups to large handbuilt murals which he fires in his electric kiln. The six hundred square feet of studio is used economically with extra space provided by high shelving on the walls, but for mural production he would like two or three times more space. A mural is about to be created at the back of the studio where Bob has just finished rolling out a slab of clay on the floor, fifty two inches square and three-quarters of an inch thick. He works slowly and easily, undaunted by the continual flow of conversation between us.

His current success seems far removed from his first studio experience in the Okanagan where he started as a professional in 1967. Bob remembers when he began that Walter Dexter showed him how to make handles for his work. But he was able to make a living as the economy was kinder, society more affluent and a new awareness of the craft of pottery was growing. He still maintains that his complete lack of formal training has served him well by allowing him to learn from his own mistakes and develop his own style. Art schools, he believes, can give potters the opportunity to learn basic techniques more quickly but hamper students by teaching a specific style which will have to be "unlearned" before individual creativity can be expressed. Now Bob's technique is strong and his style unquestionably unique which makes a good case in favour of self-teaching. And, as he puts it "I'm still doing it after fifteen years where many art school graduates have long since disappeared".

Where does he get his inspiration? "From everywhere". One of the stamps he uses was adopted from a bird motif he saw on a classical Greek vase. His favourite muralist is Jordi Bonet a French Canadian artist whose style is subtly echoed in Bob's work. He prefers a soft fluid line which lends itself well to the style of his murals. Even in his smaller functional pieces one sees a devotion to smooth rounded shapes and sensuous forms. Yet all of his work expresses a powerful solidity.



In his work can be found a great reverence for simplicity and purity of style which is contemporary and abstract. The forms are streamlined and smooth edged, pleasing to the touch and soothing to the eye. Ron prefers porcelain for the sculptural pieces as it reflects light and enables him to achieve delicate results with air brush glazing. In many of his pieces glaze application resembles brush strokes of colour on canvas.

The shapes in his work vary yet all are stylized and austere. Presently he is working on a series of forms constructed from two tear drop shaped slabs, approximately 16 inches high and 10 inches wide at its roundest edge. The sides are fixed one to another and a narrow base is added. The result is a slim, two sided vessel with a narrow opening at the top. He works in series and will create a number of these forms which will evolve into new shapes to be further refined in his ongoing quest for fresh ideas and aesthetic achievement.

He draws inspiration from contemporary artists like Henry Moore, Lawren Harris, Toni Onley, Arthur Erickson; all of whom express a grandeur and simplicity that can be seen in Ron's work. He is also influenced by the Scandinavian style with its clean, uncluttered lines and he has an affinity for Japanese and Haida art as well.

Ron sells his work in the gallery shops at the Vancouver Art Gallery and Victoria Art Gallery and the rest of his income is derived from commissions.

From November 26th to December 10th Ron will be exhibiting with Sue Hopper at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.

Catherine Racine

# GREENBARN

The trouble with dealing with the British is that they produce a hell of a good product but only when they feel like it. Our shipment of kiln furniture is two months late but is finally on the high seas and should be at the dock in a week or two. Meanwhile we are very short but doing the best we can.

Because of the apparent tendency toward more colour and decoration on pottery we have imported a line of "on-glaze enamels" from England. These are waterbased in 15cc tubes. They can be painted, sprayed or silk screened on the fired piece and refired to cone 017 ( 790 degrees C). There are 16 colours at very reasonable prices.

ACI Pyrometers with both six inch and twelve inch thermocouples are back in stock.

Recommendations from our Customers for our book department are always appreciated. We feel we have a good selection and are "beefing it up" for Christmas but if you know of a good book and we don't have it please let us know.

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## **in memoriam**

Tommy Kakinuma, potter and sculptor died September 9, 1982 after a lengthy illness. He was 73.

Tommy first came to Canada in 1937. He taught at U.B.C. and at Banff. He won numerous ceramic awards including the Canadian Ceramic award in 1957, Best Canadian Sculptor in 1963 and a silver medal at the 1963 International Ceramic Show in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He worked and died in his home in Burnaby where his wife Ikuko and daughter Mitsue still live.

A very beautiful memorial service was held at Forest Lawn Little Chapel of the Flowers in Burnaby. The following is taken from the eulogy given by Doreen Lawson, Burnaby Alderman.

We are here today to honour the memory of Mr. Tommy Kakinuma who was a potter and artist, a husband, a father and a friend, and not necessarily in that order. He was a quiet, sensitive man who had an appreciation of the beauty and serenity of nature. His artistic talent expressed this through his work in his sculptures, his garden and his home. He was also strong minded and determined. He valued his privacy and refused to give it up, even when his illness took him to the hospital. Mr. Kakinuma hated hospital life -- the noise, the lack of privacy and the interruptions, and he wanted so much to go home. It is a credit to his wife, Ikuko, and his daughter, Mitsue, that he was able to spend his last few weeks in the home he loved so much. It's no wonder he held his wife in such high esteem and was so proud of his daughter.

Mr. Kakinuma had a personal integrity and quiet dignity and he earned respect both in his private and professional life.

He was a potter who worked with clay which is a very humble medium and fashioned it into an object of great beauty. His love of life was expressed through the quality and excellence of his work. The only complaint I ever heard from shop owners who sold his sculptures was that they could not get enough Tommy Kakinuma pieces to meet the demand. His sculptures give great joy to everyone who has them and each piece has a character of its own.

Mr. Tommy Kakinuma brought honour to our country and to his community of Burnaby with his work. He leaves a legacy behind -- the memory of a warm and caring man remains in his sculptures which are a celebration of life and love. He gave of himself to us all and, especially, to his family. He will be sadly missed.

## THE OLEA DAVIS SPECIAL AWARD

Olea Davis, a founding member and the first president of the Potters Guild of B.C., died in April 1977. During her many years in B.C. she worked unstintingly to promote the arts, her particular interest being sculpture and pottery. A few months before her death she was made an honorary member of the International Academy of Ceramics in Zurich, Switzerland. Olea had shown her pottery in many exhibitions in Europe as well as in North America. A brief biography of Olea Davis was printed in the Western Potter, issue #35.

To honor her memory the Guild established an annual award which is given to a student in ceramics in each of the regional colleges in B.C. As well, the Guild presents an award each year to a person who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of pottery and who has given freely of their time and expertise to the Guild. This is known as the Olea Davis Special Award. At the September general meeting this award was presented to Don Hutchinson. Don is a graduate of the Vancouver School of Art, has been teaching for many years in Vancouver: at the famous chicken house on Ash St., the Vancouver School of Art and is presently head of the ceramic department at Langara College.

He is an excellent teacher, highly regarded by his students. Don has found time to work very capably in several positions on the Guild executive as well as presenting a number of very informative programs at general meetings. Don exemplifies the perfect recipient of this award. Congratulations from all of us.

### Response upon receiving the "Olea Davis Special Award"

Olea Davis is the person who started the B.C. Potter's Guild and many people have worked to bring her dream into reality. The Polbergs, Jean Fahrni, Georgina Hughes, Ruth Meecham, Dave Lambert, Tam Irving and many more like those mentioned have built this Guild into what it is to-day.

They helped the Wayne Ngans, and Ronda Greens, and Don Hutchinsons of the Guild by offering encouragement and support so we could "keep going!"

I feel this award may be connected with my teaching career so I must again give credit to someone else. It is the students I've had who bring honor to the Ceramic field. The Phyllis Greens, or Gloria Yeos, or Marilyn Thomas's, or Marsha Naimans and the many more who have and will continue to contribute; to them we owe our thank you! I am proud of them and I know Olea Davis would be proud of them!

May I therefore humbly accept this award on behalf of all those people who have made such a "special" effort for us.

Thank you. Don Hutchinson

## HINTS

If you use a strip of chamois that tends to get lost in slip, sew a button to one end. It's easy to find that hard button when you're groping around in the bowl.

Home-made sponge on a stick. Take one chopstick. Cut a piece of sponge with scissors, one that is fat enough to have a bit cut out of one side. Insert chopstick in the hole and join by wrapping an elastic around the upper end of the sponge many times. Quick and easy to replace.

Phyllis Argyle

## NOTES

JEANNE SARICH'S Wheelthrowing classes at Place des Arts, 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam. 526-2891. Beginners and int./advanced classes, also glaze investigation class. 10 wk. sessions begin 2nd week of October and cost \$61-68.00. Late enrollment accepted.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBIN HOPPER who received a Canada Council Explorations Grant of \$7,075.00 for his resource book on ceramic glaze and colour.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH PEACE POTTERS GUILD The Guild will be moving to new premises with the College move to a purpose built campus, before New Year. Membership is increasing and there are plans for a gas kiln in the future. The 13th Annual Christmas sale will be on November 27th; a much anticipated event locally. Paddy Beyers and Heather Hannaford thoroughly enjoyed the David Leach workshop and were very impressed with the hospitality shown them by local members. -Thankyou.

## ADS

POTTERY, COPPER ENAMELLING AND WATERCOLOURS by Ron White, Barbara White, Thelma Allward and Howard Allward. House Sale, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm, October 23rd at 5312 Ewart Street, Burnaby, and October 30th at 2958 Admiral Court, Coquitlam.

BRICKS FOR SALE New and used, R23's, 26's. Hard, soft, straights, angles. \$1.00 a brick, 2000 available. Tom Bourne - 872-3790

WANTED A good electric wheel, Lyle Young, 261-4564.



## EXHIBITIONS

BYRON JOHNSTAD: A DECADE RECALLED A retrospective exhibition of works in clay (1972-1982) will be at the Cartwright Street Gallery on Granville Island from October 1st to November 28th. Mon.- Fri. 10 - 5 pm Sat. & Sun. 1 - 5 pm. This exhibition demonstrates Byron's influence on contemporary ceramics in B.C. and appropriately recognizes him as one of Canada's leading ceramists.

SUE HOPPER and RON TRIBE Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1040 Moss Street. Nov. 26 to Dec. 10.

THE POTTERS WHEEL GALLERY 633 Courtenay Street, Victoria. Porcelain by Frances Fraser and watercolours by Shari Street. Opening Sunday October 31st, 12-5pm and till November 13th, Monday to Saturday 10-5:30pm.

FRASER VALLEY POTTERS GUILD juried exhibition at Robson Square Media Centre Oct. 29 to Nov. 5.

REMBRANDT GALLERIES N. Vancouver 987-0133 To Oct. 18  
Mainstream Potters: Robert Bush and Darrel Hancock. Also Joyce and Andrew Cammidge, functional stoneware and Sid Dyke, watercolours. Nov. 1-13. Harriet and Roger Stribley, stoneware and porcelain. Also prints by Betty Jean Drummond.

VANCOUVER ISLAND POTTERS 6th Annual Christmas Exhibition and Sale at the Empress Hotel, (Georgian Lounge) Victoria on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 & 26 from 12-9 pm.  
Featuring: Wayne Ngan, Walter Dexter, Byron Johnstad, Gordon Hutchens, Robin Righton, Linda Mackie, Gary Chernoff, Carol Graham, Al Bubnys, Roger Painter, Jan and Helga Grove, Art Brendon, Pat Webber, Bev and Manny Meyer.



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